

Appl. No. 10/773,923

Paper dated June 5, 2006

Reply to Office Action dated January 3, 2006

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheet(s) of drawings reflect changes to Figure(s) 1, 3, 4A, 4B, 4C, 6 and replace the original sheet(s) of these Figure(s).

Appendix: Four (4) Annotated Sheets and Four (4) Replacement Sheets.

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

**Specification**

The specification has been amended to overcome informalities objected to by the Examiner and to correct other informalities. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests that the objections to the specification be withdrawn as being overcome or otherwise rendered moot.

**Drawings**

Several objections to the drawings also were raised. [1/03/06 Office Action at pp. 2-4]. By this amendment, revised figures 1, 3, and 6 are submitted, which explicitly reference character 1 instead of character 1a and 1b. In addition, figures 4A-4C are submitted, which explicitly reference character 12. With regard to other objections to the drawings, reference to characters 1a and 1b in figures 1, 3 and 6 have been deleted and references to characters 2, 22, 23, 24 and 25 on figures 4B and 4C have been deleted. The specification has been amended accordingly.

The specification has also been amended to refer to reference character 19 instead of character 9 on page 18. No new matter will be added to this application by entry of these amendments. Withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is respectfully requested.

**Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-18 are pending. At the outset, the indication of allowability of these claims is acknowledged with appreciate.

Claims 1, 2-5, 7-10 are amended and new claims 11-18 have been added. Claim 1 has been amended to specify a liquid head recording jet wherein “a plurality of the recording element substrates are provided in the opening, and the dummy lead is provided correspondingly between end portions of the plurality of recording element substrates adjacent to each other.” Support for this amendment may be found throughout the application as originally filed, including for example at page 10, lines 14-16.

Claim 11 has been added to specify a liquid head recording jet wherein “a gap between each of the lead electrodes and the dummy lead is set to fall within a range of  $0.75P \leq P \leq 1.25P$ , where P is an arrangement pitch of the plurality of lead electrodes.” Support for this claim may be found throughout the application as originally filed, including for example at page 14, lines 7-9. Claims 12-18 have been added to depend from new claim 11.

Claim 6 has been canceled.

These amendments are not made for any substantial reason related to patentability (§§102, 103). No new matter is introduced by these amendments. Entry is respectfully requested.

#### **Claim Rejections**

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,659,591 to Sato (“Sato”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,084,612 to Suzuki (“Suzuki”).

Claims 7, 9-10 were rejected over 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato in view of Suzuki and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,670,759 to Ogawa (“Ogawa”).

Claims 6 and 8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the characterization of the pending claims and of the prior art in the stated rejections, and traverses these rejections.

Applicant has not substantively addressed the rejection of claims 1, 2-5 and 7-10 as stated in the January 3, 2006 Office Action and reserves the right to address the substance of such rejections in the future as necessary and/or appropriate.

Applicant has herein amended independent claim 1 to include the feature of claim 6, which the Examiner has indicated is not disclosed or suggested in prior art and contains allowable subject matter. (See Office Action, page 6, ¶ 8, 9). Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 and claims 2-5 and 7-10 depending therefrom, are believed allowable.

Applicant has canceled claim 6 to render the objection as to it, moot.

Applicant has also added new independent claim 11 to include the feature of claim 8, which the Examiner has indicated is not disclosed or suggested in prior art and contains allowable subject matter. (See Office Action, page 6, ¶ 8, 10). Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that new claim 11 and claims 12-18 depending therefrom, are believed allowable.

#### **Dependent Claims**

Applicant has not specifically addressed the rejections of the dependent claims. Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims, from which they depend, are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Accordingly, the dependent claims also are in

Appl. No. 10/773,923  
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condition for allowance. Applicant, however, reserves the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims in the future as appropriate.

Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing objections be withdrawn as being overcome or otherwise rendered moot.

### CONCLUSION

For at least the above-stated reasons, this application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable examination on the merits is requested. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF THIS AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 AND 1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 13-4500, ORDER NO., 1232-5276.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: June 5, 2006

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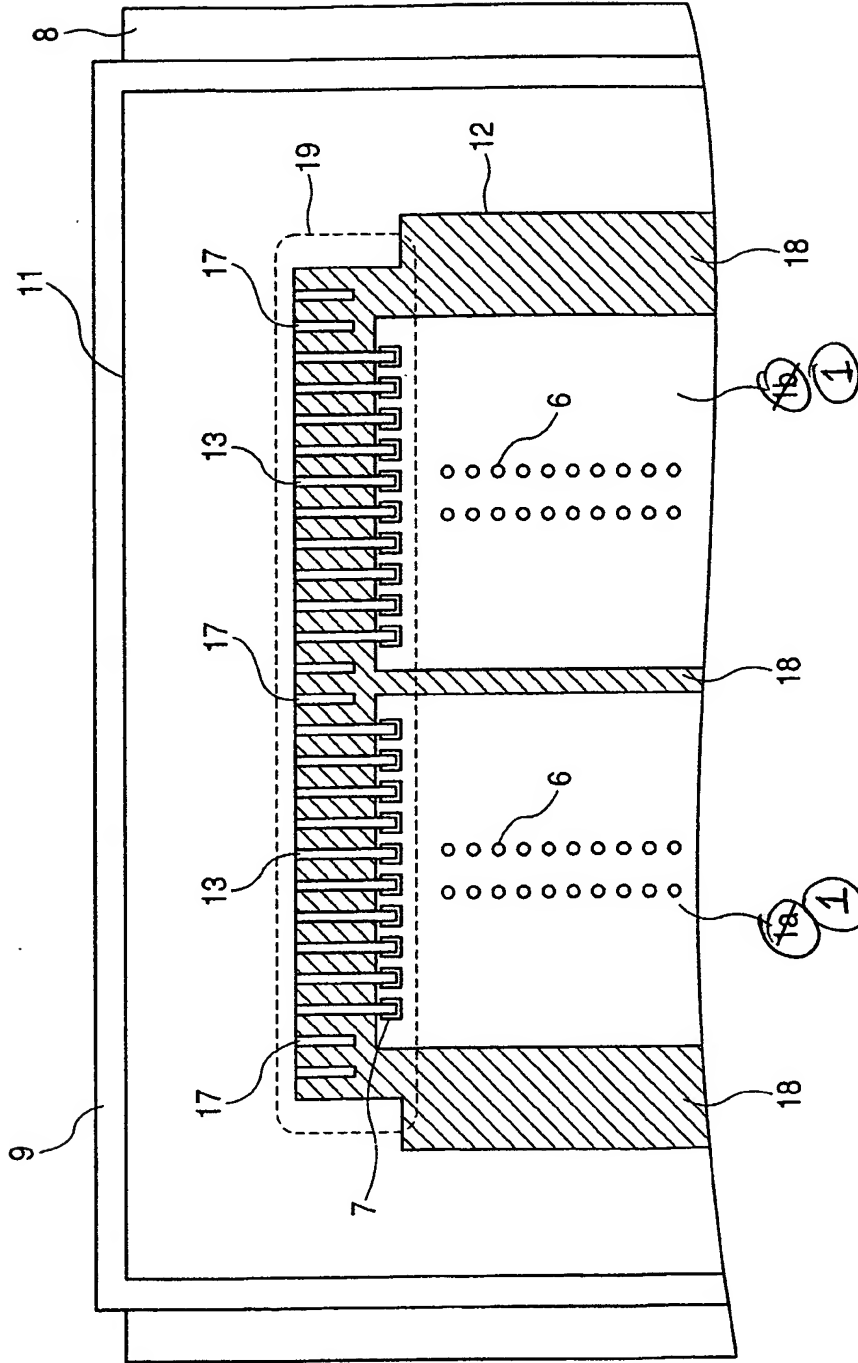
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Serial No.: 10/773,923  
Reply to Office Action Dated January 3, 2006  
Amendment Dated June 5, 2006  
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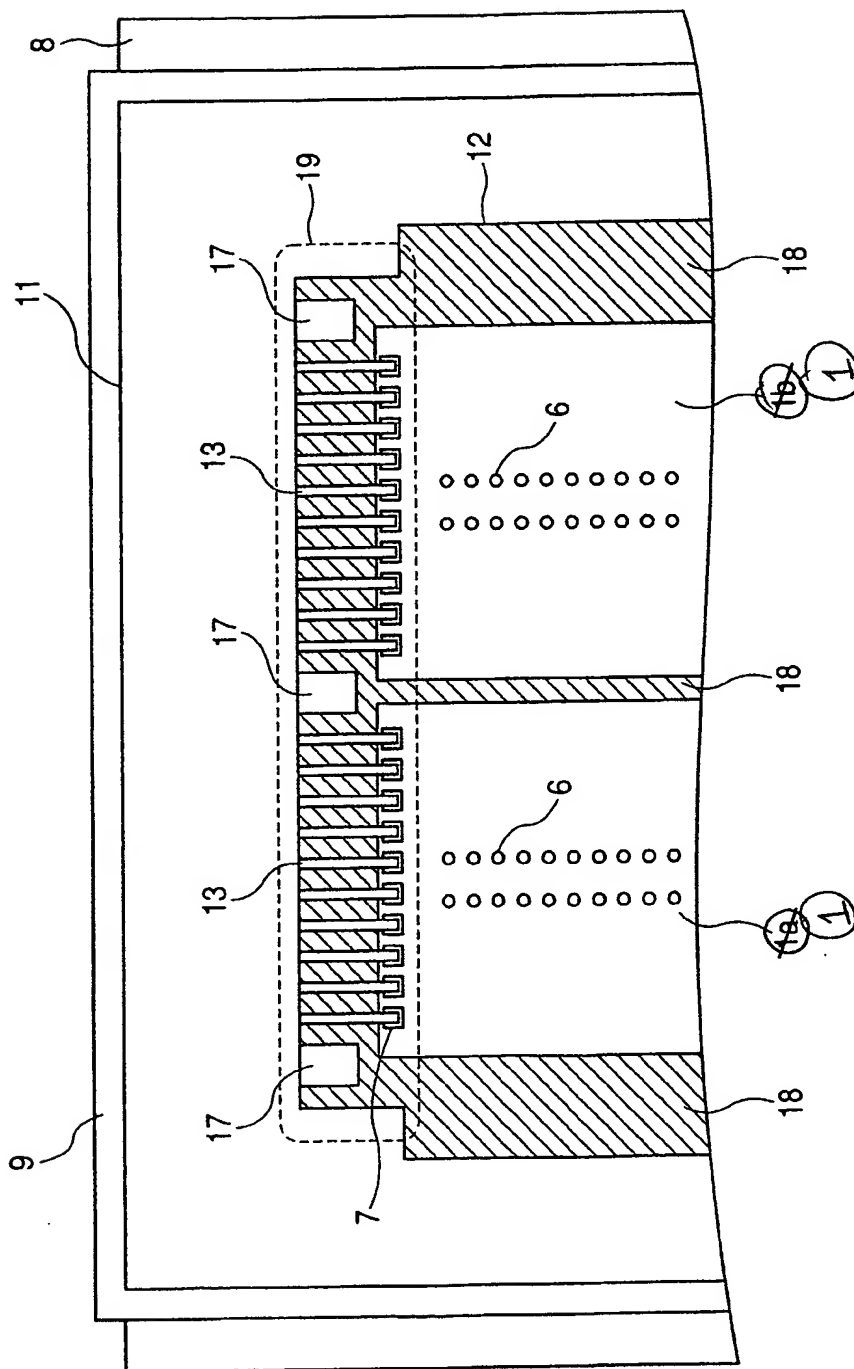
FIG. 1



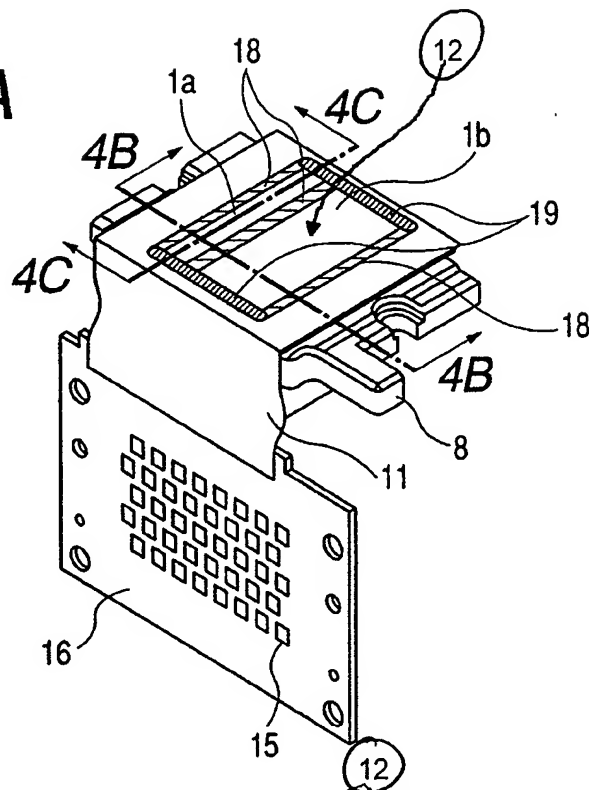
Serial No.: 10/773,923  
 Reply to Office Action Dated January 3, 2006  
 Amendment Dated June 5, 2006  
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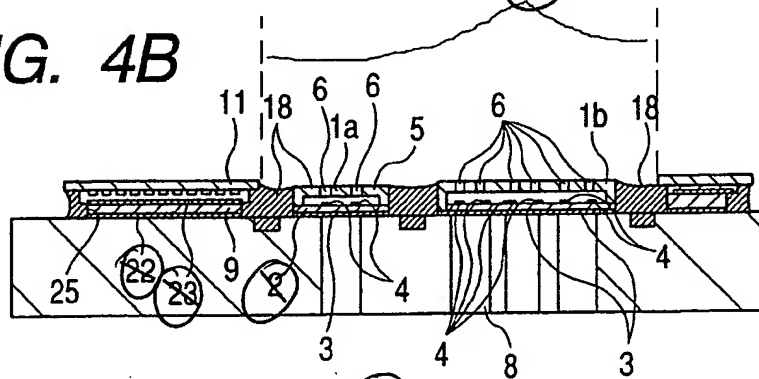
FIG. 3



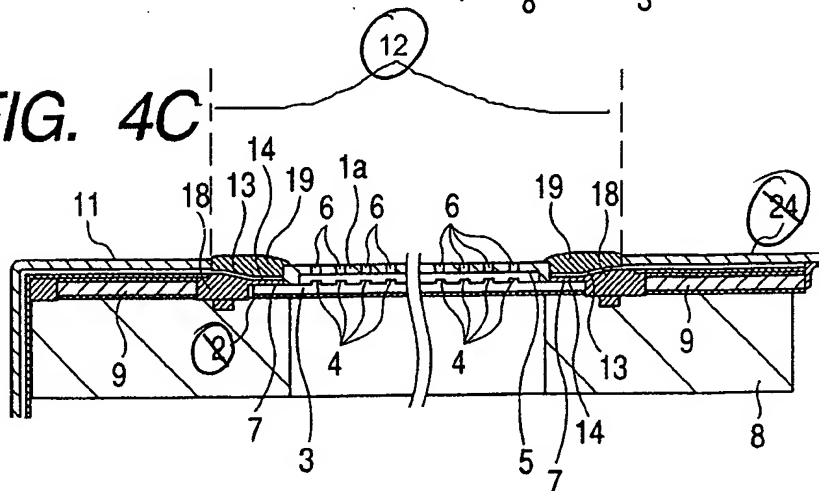
**FIG. 4A**



**FIG. 4B**



**FIG. 4C**





Serial No.: 10/773,923  
Reply to Office Action Dated January 3, 2006  
Amendment Dated June 5, 2006  
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FIG. 6

